

Fremont Open Space Committee Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, September 2, 2008  
DRAFT

Attendance: Janice O'Brien, Kenn Jones, Jack Karcz, Tina Sturdivant, Erika Washburn

Meeting began at 7:00 PM

**Land Use PhD Project**

Erika Washburn, who is a UNH PhD student, asked to sit in on the meeting. She explained that she is researching land use decisions in the 14 towns that make up the Lamprey River Watershed. Ms. Washburn has asked to interview members of the OSC and other land use boards within our town and the other 13 towns within the Lamprey River Watershed on the land use decision making processes. Ms. Washburn stated that she has already met with the Conservation Commission, Planning Board, and joined the meeting tonight to find a person from the Open Space Committee that would be willing to participate in the Project. Mrs. O'Brien offered Ms. Washburn her contact information. Ms. Washburn thanked Mrs. O'Brien and informed her that she would contact her in the near future for an hour and a half long interview.

**Re-organization**

Mrs. O'Brien stated that she planned discuss reorganizing the Open Space Committee and/or coming up with new ideas or area to focus on since we do not have any projects for land conservation in process at this time.

Point of Order: Mr. Thomas joined the meeting at 7:08 PM.

Mrs. O'Brien thought about finding out if other nearby towns have and Open Space Committees and to see what projects they are working on and how their meetings run. Ms. Washburn offered that she did not know of any Open Space Committees in the immediate surrounding towns. Mrs. O'Brien asked for thoughts and opinions about where the committee should go forward from here. She stated there seems to be "staleness" within the committee and a need for new ideas or areas to focus on.

Point of Order: Mrs. Ragonese joined the meeting at 7:15 PM.

Mr. Karcz suggested that the Committee could disband until such time that a project for land conservation arises, then the committee could reconvene. There was a discussion concerning disbanding the Committee.

Point of Order: Mr. Johnson joined the meeting at 7:20 PM.

Mr. Thomas suggested that we not disband, but keep the meeting schedule as it is presently, meeting once a quarter. If a project or event is planned then the committee could meet in between scheduled meeting. Mr. Thomas also added that the core group of committee members has remained unchanged

for the last five years, and if something needed to be accomplished, he felt that the members would pull together to make any such project happen.

Ms. Washburn suggested looking at the town of Lee, New Hampshire. She stated that they have a strong group of people, with a creative approach to keeping people interested and engaged during the times in between projects. Mrs. O'Brien also added that Stratham also had an Open Space Committee.

Mrs. O'Brien liked the idea of contacting the Town of Lee and finding out if they would be willing to permit any interest committee members sit in on some of their meetings. Mrs. O'Brien stated that she would contact them. In addition, she will send out an e-mail containing meeting times for the Town of Lee and offered to car pool with anyone on the board who would like to attend.

### **B-52 walk**

Mr. Thomas will not be able to lead the B-52 walk this fall. He was suggesting potentially having the walk sometime in the spring. There was discussion relative to the accessibility to the site in the spring due to high water levels from winter snow melt and spring rains. Mr. Karcz added that even at this time, the area is very wet due to the rains last month.

Mr. Ragonese suggested that it may be easier to investigate the crash site and surrounding area during the winter months.

There was a suggestion for a foliage walk. Mr. Thomas stated that the trees had already started to change now. Mr. Karcz stated that he was walking in Glen Oakes and the one of the trails was very wet and was not easily passable.

### **Election Day Display**

Mrs. Ragonese suggested that the Committee stay visible to the public by creating a display to be posted at the upcoming Presidential Election in November. She added that it was important for people to see what the Open Space Committee is about, why we are needed in the town and what our goals for land conservation are. Mr. Thomas agreed and stated that he thought it would be a very busy election day and having a display for the townspeople to view would be important. Mrs. O'Brien thought it was a good idea to have information and a person available to inform the public about our committee.

Mr. Jones stated that he would put together a flier to be distributed on Election Day. There was a discussion about sending out a mailer to all the people in the town. There was a consensus that it would be better to distribute information at the election rather than mailing out a flier that may get tossed without being read.

Mrs. O'Brien asked if the committee members felt that the display should be manned during the election. Mr. Thomas suggested that someone be there early in the morning and then from 3:30 until the polls closed. Mrs. O'Brien stated that she would send out a sign up sheet to all committee members. Anyone with free time on Election Day is encouraged to help out.

### **Glen Oakes Monitoring**

Mrs. O'Brien will send a new monitoring schedule out for the upcoming year. Committee members are asked to look it over and volunteer for a month or two throughout the next year.

### **Kiosks**

Mark Prescott has completed his Eagle Scout Project for the Boy Scouts. He designed, assembled and installed two kiosks. One kiosk is at the entrances of Glen Oakes Conservation Area and the other at the entrance to the Oak Ridge Trail

### **Management Plan**

The Management Plan for Glen Oakes is still in progress. Charlie Moreno will be meeting with the Conservation Commission on September 8, 2008 to update the committee.

### **Meeting Schedule**

There was a consensus that we should continue with the plan to meet once a quarter unless there are any new projects that need attention and ideas.

### **Land Conservation Projects**

There is no activity to report at this time.

### **New Ideas**

- Committee members take turns writing articles for the town newsletter or Carriage Town paper about the importance for land conservation and other conservation issues.
- Photo contest similar to the one the Town of Sandown had on their new property acquisition.
- Art and Nature project with a member of the community that is interested having children experience nature and draw what they are experiencing.
- Nesting boxes for ducks or small song birds.
- Developing a Quest for Glen Oakes.
- Scavenger Hunt (photo documented).
- Meet with the School Board to see if they could suggest if any teacher was interested in doing some of these ideas with children at Ellis School.

Mr. Karcz made a motion to approve the minutes from June 3, 2008 as amended with the following changes

- Under the Meeting Schedule Section: Change the word or to of.

-Under the Build Out Study: Change the last name from Prudhoe to Pruyne.

Mr. Thomas seconded the motion.

The next Open Space Committee meeting will take place on January 6, 2009 at 7:00 on the main floor of Town Hall.

Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Karcz and seconded by Mr. Jones.

The meeting ended at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Sturdivant

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